

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 4 and 6. Thus, claims 4 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter. Support for the claim amendments can be found variously throughout the specification and the original claims. Thus, claims 1-3, 5 and 7-13 are pending in this application.

In view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 54-003848 or JP 55-5938. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

To constitute anticipation of the claimed invention under U.S. practice, the prior art reference must literally or inherently teach each and every limitation of the claims. Here, in this case, both JP 54-003848 and JP 55-5938 fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations, with particularly emphasis on the limitations “*wherein the water-solubility imparting component comprises at least one of a tribasic acid anhydride and a tetrabasic acid anhydride*”, and “*wherein the reactive phosphorus-containing compound is at least one selected from compounds represented by the following general formulas (I), (II) and (III)*”.

JP 54-003848 and JP 55-5938 are directed to water-soluble polyester adhesives. JP 54-003848 discloses the use of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid component, an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid component, an ester-forming sulfonic acid alkali metal salt composition, and a glycol component (e.g., diethylene glycol), a phosphorus compound (20 to 1000 ppm). In addition, 5-(Sodiomsulpho) Isophthalic Acid (SSIPa) is used as the ester-forming sulfonic acid alkali metal salt composition. However, JP 54-003848 as well as JP 55-5938 fail to teach or suggest the feature of the limitations “*wherein the water-solubility imparting component comprises at least one of a tribasic acid anhydride and a tetrabasic acid anhydride*”, and “*wherein the reactive phosphorus-containing compound is at least one selected from compounds represented by the following general formulas*”.

(I), (II) and (III)". In particular, JP 54-003848 and JP 55-5938 fails to teach or suggest the water-solubility imparting component comprising a dicarboxylic-acid component with a metal sulfonate group and at least one of a tribasic acid anhydride and a tetrabasic acid anhydride of claim 7.

As described on page 7, lines 25-29, of the specification, when using at least one of the tribasic acid anhydride and the tetrabasic acid anhydride, the water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin possesses excellent hydrophobicity since the carboxyl group effectively remains in the polyester resin. Such a superior effect can not be achieved with the water-soluble polyester adhesives of JP 54-003848 and JP 55-5938.

Thus, since the water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin of the amended claims is different from the water-soluble polyester adhesives disclosed in JP 54-003848 and JP 55-5938, and possesses superior properties not expected from the teachings of JP 54-003848 and JP 55-5938, this rejection can no longer be sustained and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all of the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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